

Law Enforcement News

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Calling the question

Election of police chiefs is a bone of contention in Louisiana

For the vast majority of Americans, electing a local police chief would seem about as orthodox as soldiers electing their own generals. Not so in Louisiana, where a bill unanimously endorsed last month by a state Senate committee could open the doors for the city of Baton Rouge to elect its police chiefs rather than have them appointed by the mayor and council — thus becoming the 290th municipality in the state with such a system.

Under its current city-parish form of government, the entire parish of East Baton Rouge elects the mayor, who then appoints the chief for the city of Baton Rouge. "Citizens of Baton Rouge have little to do with who their appointed chief of police is," said Senator Cleo Fields (D-Baton Rouge), who proposed the legislation.

"If you had an elected chief of police, there would be a residential requirement whereby the person would have to live within the district for which he's running," he told Law Enforcement News. "In this case, with the appointment, there is no residential require-

ment. So how can he enforce laws upon me as a citizen of Baton Rouge, and protect me as a citizen of Baton Rouge, and serve me as a citizen of Baton Rouge if he himself is not a citizen of Baton Rouge?"

While not unheard of, holding elections for police chiefs is unusual out-

year terms.

"In most of the larger municipalities, the chief is appointed by the mayor and council. In most of the other municipalities, they are in fact elected," he told LEN. "There are some small municipalities where they appoint a chief, but there are three hundred and some

"You never know how many people you've upset. . . . But I still like it. If people aren't happy with you, they can just vote you out."

— Stamford, La., Police Chief Glenn Smith

side of Louisiana, acknowledged Norman Ferachi, executive director of the state's chiefs association. In Louisiana, he said, "we love to elect, talk sports and cook."

There are no qualifications for the office under state law except for residency, Ferachi said, although chiefs are expected to meet Louisiana's Police Officer Standards and Training requirements within the year. Most serve four-

municipalities and in almost 300 they have elected chiefs of police."

Texas also elects some of its police chiefs, but not nearly the percentage that Louisiana does. Of the 1,100 incorporated cities listed in the State Directory, only five elect their police chiefs, and three of those are in the Big Country. They include Brownwood, Coleman, Stamford, San Angelo and Childress.

The practice is a holdover from an era when most cities elected marshals. While the marshal system had died out by the early to mid-1900s as cities adopted charters, a few elected chiefs were left.

"Ninety percent of the cities abolished the marshal system and established a police department," Monte Akers, director of legal services at the Texas Municipal League, told The Associated Press. "And then the city councils wanted control. They did not want their police chiefs to be selected by popular vote. But Texas communities are fiercely independent and protective of that independence. I think it makes for a wonderful mix."

A majority of voters in Brownwood rejected a proposed switch to an appointed chief in 1978 and again in 1998, despite support from city officials. In Stamford in the early 1980s, voters defeated a similar measure in a referendum.

"I prefer it myself, but you never know how many people you've upset

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Are Milwaukee cops overworked? Gun-shy? Racial profilers? No easy answers for ticket drop.

As Milwaukee officials search for reasons that might explain a steep decline in the number of quality-of-life and traffic citations handed out by police between 1999 and 2000, the officers themselves say officials may be overlooking the simplest explanation: too much paperwork and too little overtime pay.

A year-long study released in March by the city's Police and Fire Commission found the total number of citations to have fallen by 50 percent, from 28,418 in December 1999 to 14,079 the following year. The number of speeding tickets dropped from 6,295 to 2,753, or by 56 percent during the 12-month period. And vehicle license tickets decreased by 42 percent, from 6,169 to

3,602.

The only citations issued consistently during the study's five reporting periods were for disorderly conduct, said the report.

"We have no immediate explanation for the decrease in traffic citations, which will be shown to occur in all police districts, as well as in the special operations unit," the study said. "In total, traffic citations decreased 60 percent from 21,747 in the fourth quarter of 1999, when traffic accounted for 76 percent of all quality-of-life citations, to 8,624 in the fourth quarter of 2000, 61 percent of all quality-of-life citations in that period."

The study was conducted by the commission at the request of the Com-

mon Council's Public Safety Committee to determine whether racial profiling was being practiced. City and police officials, citing the consistent proportion of blacks who received tickets during the review period, contend that the data refute any suggestion of bias-based enforcement.

Males of all races accounted for the preponderance of offenses, 71.5 percent, and blacks for almost two-thirds, or 62.5 percent. The percentage of total citations broken down by race was constant over four quarterly reporting periods.

According to the study, blacks received just over half of the citations for speeding and disorderly conduct, and 85 percent of all loitering citations.

Black cops in Milwaukee say they've been victimized by racial profiling, and used the practice themselves. **Page 8.**

Three-quarters of loud music citations were issued to blacks.

"We do track the race and gender of people who are given traffic and other ordinance violation citations," said Joseph Czarnecki, executive director of the Police and Fire Commission. "Although the number of traffic citations dropped dramatically last year, the proportion given to people of color remained consistent," he told Law Enforcement News.

However, more data are needed if the city is to reach a more substantive conclusion about racial profiling. At this point, said Czarnecki, the department is not technologically equipped to collect the type of data it needs to do an in-depth analysis. For instance, data that would indicate where the department's traffic support division, a unit of its patrol force, issued citations is not available. The agency only knows that citations were issued by that unit but not where.

"It is difficult to say whether those citations are a result of racial profiling or if they're issued in areas that are predominantly one race or another, said Czarnecki. "It's difficult to draw conclusions besides reporting that most of the citations go to males and most go to African Americans and that's certainly not in direct proportion to the

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Fit for duty? Massachusetts will finally put its police to the test

Thousands of municipal police officers in the state of Massachusetts will soon begin taking an in-service fitness exam, under a provision of the 1987 Pension Reform Act that was on hold from its enactment until funding was fully appropriated three years ago.

Simply known as "the standards," they require anyone hired after Nov. 1, 1996 to undergo an ability test every two years and a medical exam every four years. Those hired before that date will be grandfathered in under the statute. Officers are given three chances to pass the standards within a calendar year or face termination.

"The intention of the legislation was to change the culture of public safety," Thomas Nee, president of the Boston Police Officers Association, told Law Enforcement News. "In other words, they want police officers to keep themselves up to public standards. Certainly the union is not opposed to that concept, but I believe that the legislation forces the change on line officers and falls silent on the responsibility of management."

According to the state's Human Resources Division, which is overseeing implementation of the provision, the standards program helps ensure that

police, as well as firefighters, maintain a certain level of fitness after the academy. A review of increasing disability claims indicated a need to reduce that number and that on- and off-duty injuries could be prevented by regular medical assessments, fitness testing and wellness programs, according to a program summary issued by the agency.

"The HRD anticipates that as a regular program of in-service standards examinations is implemented, along with the implementation of wellness programs, the use of sick time will be significantly reduced and that 'injured on duty' and disability retirement costs

will decrease," the summary states. The program is also intended to help prevent burnout and detect early signs of disease, such as heart ailments and diabetes.

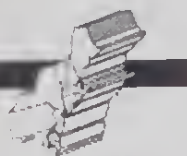
A statistical sampling of 200 people was used to develop the standards, according to James J. Hartnett Jr., state personnel administrator. The tests will be administered at armories around the state, beginning next month with the first group hired after the cutoff date.

Among the tasks officers will be asked to perform is running an obstacle course designed to simulate the actions

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Around the Nation

Northeast



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Three federal law enforcement agencies — the National Zoo police, the Defense Protective Service and the FBI — have signed agreements with the Metropolitan Police Department expanding their authority to make arrests and patrol neighborhoods in the District. According to the "Fiduciary Order of Police," most of the federal officers have long wanted the expansion of authority. Other federal agencies are said to be close to signing similar agreements.

More than 200 current and retired black officers of the U.S. Capitol Police have filed a formal complaint alleging that the department denied them promotions and opportunities because of racial discrimination. The complaint filed by the U.S. Capitol Black Police Association alleges that black officers are unfairly disciplined, subjected to racist and sexist remarks from white officers, and punished if they complain.

MAINE — The Portland Police Department, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Maine, the Maine Medical Center and the state are joining forces to train officers in crisis intervention. The intensive week-long session will be patterned after a program in Memphis that has reduced the number of disturbances caused by mental illness that lead to arrest, forcible restraint, injuries or visits to the emergency room. Sgt. Robin Gauvin will be the first officer trained, and he will then help to train seven other volunteer officers. The aim is to have two crisis-team officers per shift. [See LEN, Dec. 15/31, 2000.]

NEW JERSEY — On April 19, acting governor Donald T. DiFrancesco signed a law that gives police the power to seize the vehicles of suspected drunken drivers. The bill was prompted by the death of a Navy ensign who was killed by a drunken driver who had gotten back behind the wheel of his car just three hours after his arrest.

NEW YORK — The Schenectady Police Department's strip-search policy was ruled unconstitutional this month, in a case involving a college student who had been arrested for disorderly conduct. U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy wrote that the department's policy of strip-searching all persons detained, regardless of whether or not police had reasonable suspicion, violated the Fourth Amendment.

Thanks to a courageous rape victim and two quick-thinking New York City police officers, an alleged rape suspect was lured back to the scene of the crime and arrested. The suspect, Samuel Cusperte, had taken the woman's cell phone after he assaulted her. When the officers responded to her 911 call, they convinced the woman to call her assailant on her cell phone. She convinced him to come back and meet her. Officers nabbed the returning Cusperte, who had the woman's cell phone, her underwear and about \$67 in his pocket.

Responding to a wild shootout on a Manhattan street corner a few months ago, the New York Police Department

has a new hip-hop patrol that's been keeping tabs on rap musicians at their hangouts. The Intelligence Division is compiling a book called "Crime Trends in the Rap Music Industry" that includes a variety of information on the rappers, such as names, nicknames, photos, rappers' vehicles, their record labels and clubs that they favor.

U.S. District Court Judge Shira Scheindlin has refused to order the New York City Police Department to turn over stop-and-frisk reports from the street crime unit, saying that federal prosecutors had failed to "demonstrate an extraordinary circumstance or compelling need" for the data. The city had initially cooperated in the investigation that was prompted by the shooting of Amadou Diallo, but stopped handing over the reports when officials concluded that the investigation might not have been conducted in good faith.

The New York City Police Department is taking its show on the road to military bases, college campuses and public schools in hopes of attracting a larger pool of recruits. The NYPD entry exam will be offered on site, with the \$35 application fee waived.

Eight officers assigned to the New York City police museum will be transferred to other units. A police source told The Associated Press that the transfers were prompted when Commissioner Bernard Kerik learned that two police officials at the museum had leased high-priced office space for free and were using two luxury vehicles leased by the museum. An internal police investigation found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

PENNSYLVANIA — Police are investigating whether the rape of a woman in North Philadelphia is connected to several other attacks by a serial rapist who poses as a police officer. In each case, the man used a fake badge, was dressed in civilian clothes and carried a nightstick and a gun.

About a dozen East Hempfield police attended a public meeting of the township supervisors to show their support for a proposed regional police force. If created, the regional force would be one of Pennsylvania's largest, serving 55,000 residents over 78-square-mile area. Supporters of the plan pointed out that a regional force offers its officers more specialized positions and better chances for advancement.

Philadelphia Police Officer Leroy Fisher, a former winner of the city's highest award for valor, was arrested April 17 along with a city corrections officer for the 1999 shooting death of an unarmed man outside a bar. Fisher, corrections officer Robert Knapper and Tony Clark had arguing when they all went outside the bar where Fisher served as security manager. According to the indictment, Clark was sitting in his car when he was shot twice — once each by Fisher and Knapper. Fisher's attorney suggested that his client's actions may be a result of post-traumatic stress disorder stemming from the 1996 shooting incident that earned him the medal of valor.

RHODE ISLAND — The 30 Johnston police officers whose salaries had been docked for staging a sick-out in early April will have their pay restored. City officials had withheld the pay, claim-

ing that the sick-out was really a strike. The police department will still conduct its own inquiry to decide if the sick-out warrants any punishment.

The latest recruitment drive by the Providence Police Department has generated an uncommonly diverse recruit pool, with officials estimating that 47 percent of the 1,274 applicants for the next police academy class are women or members of minority groups. As part of the recruiting drive, applications were made available via the Internet and at job fairs, and appeals were made at historically black colleges.

The Portsmouth Town Council has unanimously approved an amended use-of-force policy for the town's police department, one that is aimed at bringing Portsmouth more in line with nationally accredited departments. Chief Dennis Seale said the new policy offers more definitions, clarification with a particular use of force and includes changes in equipment and off-duty policies.

Southeast



ALABAMA — Fired Saraland police corporal Lester Johnson Sr., 51, was arrested April 13 and charged in the 1998 rape of an 11-year-old girl. More than two years elapsed between the incident and when it was reported.

FLORIDA — Margate Police Officer Jeffrey Devine was charged April 6 with committing unlawful sexual activity with a 16-year-old girl he arrested for driving under the influence. Devine arrested the girl after she was involved in an accident and drove her, handcuffed, to Fort Lauderdale for a Breathalyzer test. He later removed the handcuffs and performed sex acts with her in the back seat.

Palm Beach County school police officers are going to receive extra training in handling autistic children, after some parents complained about excessive force. Police Chief Jim Kelly said that officers need to be aware that "on the surface, autistic children look like everyone else, but they can't be treated like everyone else," and that officers should know that these children may be more likely than other youngsters to react physically when approached.

Rookie Maitland police officer Andrew T. Targowski, 21, has been charged with lewd and lascivious molestation in the alleged sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl he met at a youth center. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

GEORGIA — Terry Stanford, frustrated with the inability of police to solve a string of burglaries at his auto-repair shop, broke into six patrol cars at the LaGrange Police Department in early April. When confronted in the parking lot, Stanford said "I'm just trying to let you know how this feels." There was no damage and nothing was taken. Stanford was charged with interfering with government property.

Atlanta narcotics investigator Sherry Lyon-Williams, 39, was shot and killed April 4 while trying to serve a warrant

at a suspected drug house. The bullet struck her under the arm in an area not covered by her protective vest, piercing her heart. She was Atlanta's first female officer killed in the line of duty. Her partner, Thaddeus "T.J." Chambers, was also shot but was in stable condition. The suspect, Michael Thompson, was killed during the shootout.

Police in Riverdale are joining other area police departments in using a Reverse 911 system that allows police to send a recorded emergency message to a block of residents or to an entire neighborhood. Riverdale Police Chief Mike Edwards said the system will cost about \$25,000 to install and should be operational by June.

LOUISIANA — Citing insufficient evidence, the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has cleared three Thibodaux police officers accused of police brutality. Officers Calvin Cooks, Troy Barilleaux and Oscar Usie were accused of violating the civil rights of four men arrested for disturbing the peace last July 14 after police responded to a complaint of loud music. The suspects had claimed that the police were needlessly rough and uttered racial epithets at them.

Any elation over a voter-approved tax increase to fund \$300-per-month pay raises for St. Bernard Parish sheriff's deputies was dampened recently when Sheriff Jack Stephens announced the layoff of about 20 people to help trim the department's budget. In addition to the layoffs, several deputies working in specialized units were transferred back to patrol duty and 34 salaried, part-time and full-time employees, most of them older than 65, were reclassified as part-time hourly employees and dropped from the department's health plan.

In a 3-to-2 decision, the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board upheld the firing of Baton Rouge police officer Tremelle Neldare, accused of inappropriate sexual behavior in two on-duty incidents. Neldare has denied any misconduct.

A man claiming to be New Orleans Police Superintendent Richard Pennington recently scammed an elderly woman out of \$4,000 by telling her he was conducting a police investigation. She withdrew the money from the bank and gave it to him and never heard from the man again. Police have not yet caught the scam artist.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Duncan police officer Joseph Dale White was arrested April 18 and charged with first degree criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct with a minor, in connection with alleged sexual assaults on two boys. One of the assaults allegedly occurred while the boy was confined in a police car.

TENNESSEE — Quinton Sanders, an 18-year-old gang member who smashed a stolen car into a police cruiser at 98 mph after a thwarted shoplifting attempt, killing Memphis Police Officer Don Overton, was convicted April 6 of felony murder and automatically sentenced to life in prison.

VIRGINIA — The Waynesboro Police Department has been cleared by the U.S. Justice Department of allegations that officers violated students' civil

rights during a 1997 racial disturbance at Waynesboro High School. The complaint arose from an incident in which 11 students — 10 of them black — were arrested after racist graffiti found on a student's locker sparked a disturbance. The police used pepper spray to restrain some students.

Midwest



ILLINOIS — Seven white supervisors in a South Side police district in Chicago have filed complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, accusing their black commander of reverse discrimination. Comdr. Marianne Perry is accused of favoring black officers for promotion, unfairly launching internal investigations against white officers, and making racially charged comments. Perry has denied the allegations, saying she judges everyone by the same standard of "decency, ethics and fair play."

A shooting spree in an Elgin pub on April 14 that left 2 people killed and 16 wounded is being called a terrible blow to a city known for going to unusual lengths to keep guns out of criminals' hands. Elgin Police Chief William Miller said the alleged shooter, convicted felon Luther "Luke" Casteel, carried with him two handguns and two shotguns — all illegally obtained. Among other recent initiatives, the city has heightened security requirements at gun shops, increased stings by police to seize illegal guns, and created a data base to track guns, their owners and their involvement in crimes. Despite such measures, Mayor Ed Schock noted, "It doesn't work if none of the other cities are doing anything."

State Trooper Joan E. Blomenkamp was indicted April 6 on charges that she falsely incriminated 20 people in drunken-driving cases. She is accused of making false reports about sobriety or dexterity test results.

The Elgin City Council has voted to provide the police department with new Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Deputy Chief Jim Lamkin made the request after learning of Harley-Davidson's program that leases the bikes to police departments for \$100 a year. Lamkin hopes to have the new bikes on patrol by Memorial Day weekend.

On April 17, Chicago police officer Eugene Jennings was indicted April 17 on charges of bribery, official misconduct and battery for allegedly pressuring women to have sex with him in exchange for reducing charges against them. Jennings, his partner, the city and the police department are all targets of a \$50-million civil lawsuit filed by five women arrested during a January prostitution raid.

INDIANA — The State Police Board has upheld the firing of a state trooper who failed to obey two direct orders to report to a riverboat casino in Michigan City because it conflicted with his religious beliefs. Ben Endres, a born-again Christian who claims that obeying the order would have put him in the position of a gaming agent, has taken his case to the U.S. Justice Department. Endres is the first trooper in the 68-year history of the Indiana State

Police to be fired for failing to obey a direct order.

Indianapolis police officer Wilbur Braxton resigned April 13 after learning that the department had filed charges against him alleging that he had sex with a 14-year-old girl in his patrol car. The department's sex crimes unit and the Marion County prosecutor's office are investigating the incident.

In a plea agreement, 10-year-old Wayne Salyers Jr. has admitted to voluntary manslaughter and to being a delinquent for fatally shooting his father, Wayne Salyers Sr. The boy told police that he shot his father because he was "tired of getting whipped." In forgoing a murder trial, the state acknowledges that the boy was a victim of "repeated physical and psychological abuses at the hands of this father."

Hohart police officer David Haun was indicted on April 19 on two counts of molesting two children under the age of 14. For now, Haun will remain on the job, assigned to desk duty.

Capt. Robert Greer of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department is the county's first black sheriff's captain. Greer, 57, who was first hired as a road deputy with the department in 1969, says that he would be happy to see a black sheriff someday, but it won't be him. He is looking forward to retiring in about four years.

MICHIGAN — A 21-gun salute and 1,500 mourners honored undercover Detroit police officer Neil Wells on April 10, who was ambushed with an assault rifle while investigating a drug complaint. A shot from an AK-47 penetrated the body armor that Wells, 41, was wearing. Lamont T. Smith, 21, faces first-degree murder and other charges that could bring him a life sentence with no parole if convicted.

WISCONSIN — Madison police Sgt. Bernard Gonzalez has been suspended without pay for 12 days for failing to properly manage an incident involving a drunken FBI agent. On Feb. 12, Madison police responded to a complaint about a man wearing a holstered gun drinking at a sports bar. Police arrived, took his gun and questioned him. When Gonzalez arrived and discovered that the man was an FBI agent, he directed the officers to return his weapon and ammunition. Chief Richard Williams faulted Gonzalez for showing preferential treatment to another law officer.



IOWA — Former Waterloo police officer Kevin Ryan Nohis, who resigned last month, was sentenced to seven days in jail for assaulting his wife and violating an order not to have contact with her. Under federal law, he is barred from owning or carrying guns, effectively ending his law enforcement career.

The Toledo Police Department's contract with the Marshalltown Animal Rescue League provides for care of both stray cats and dogs, but Police Chief Wayne Martin says that the cats are mangy and malnourished and that

it is cheaper to shoot them than send them to the shelter. It costs about \$26 to euthanize a cat via lethal injection.

The Ottumwa Police Department is operating with a full staff for the first time in four years, but finding qualified people to fill vacant positions has not been easy. The department has had a hard time recruiting due to a strong economy, and retaining new recruits has also been problematic, as many officers seek more money with larger departments after they have been trained. The Ottumwa police force now requires a four-year contract that holds recruits liable for the cost of their training and their salary if they leave before the end of the contract. The liability decreases by 25 percent each year.

An arbitrator ruled that Evansdale police officer Michael Dean, who was fired for writing a letter criticizing Police Chief Mike Burke, should be reinstated since the letter was constitutionally protected free speech.

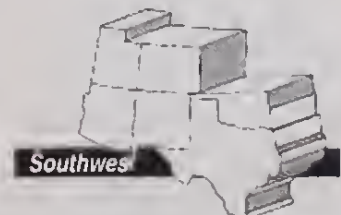
KANSAS — Marc V. Sappington, 21, was charged April 13 with killing three men. Kansas City police Lieut. Vince Davenport said that "deviant cannibalistic tendencies" were the primary motivation for the crimes. Sappington was said to have a fascination with convicted serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer.

MISSOURI — With recruit classes swelling and the addition of popular new training programs, officials at the Kansas City Regional Police Academy say they have outgrown their facilities. In 1999, about 3,000 recruits and in-service officers passed through the academy. Last year, according to the training division commander, Maj. Michael Sola, that number was 15,000. The City Council met April 19 to discuss funding for a new police academy.

On April 13, Gary Tucker and Becky Edwards became the Independence Police Department's first black and first female supervisors, respectively, when they were promoted to sergeant.

The Independence City Council on April 16 passed a daytime curfew that would allow police to question children between the ages of 7 and 16 about their absence from school between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The ordinance also allows the city the right to prosecute parents of truants in municipal court.

NEBRASKA — A state committee is looking for an alternate site for a memorial honoring the 125 Nebraska law officers who have died in the line of duty, after seven years of haggling finally resulted in the scrapping of plans for it to be built in Lincoln. Some communities showing interest in the project are Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, Lexington and Omaha.



ARIZONA — Already understaffed, the Phoenix Police Department will likely get fewer new officers than anticipated this year due to a city budget crunch. With only \$3.6 million to spare for all new services in fiscal year 2001-

2002, the city plans to hire 28 officers, short of the city's goal of adding 52 recruits by January. City officials insist that despite 178 police vacancies the department is not stretched thin.

COLORADO — A Denver patrolman pushed a button on April 10 and crashed the car that had led him on low-speed chases twice in one week. The police department staged the junkyard crushing to call attention to a new policy that allows the police to seize vehicles that flee from them.

NEW MEXICO — In an unanimous ruling, the state Court of Appeals broadened the legal grounds for police to enter a person's home without a warrant as part of law enforcement's "community caretaker" function to offer assistance to those in need. The ruling came in the case of a woman who was arrested for threatening an Aztec police officer and a San Juan County sheriff's deputy with a puring knife and shoving identification cards into one officer's mouth, causing a bloody lip. Rejecting claims of Fourth Amendment violations, the court ruled that the officers' actions constituted a "check on the welfare of a person the officers reasonably believed to be in need of immediate assistance, and a reasonable, limited effort to determine if they could assist that person."

OKLAHOMA — Gov. Frank Keating on April 16 signed legislation that will expand law enforcement's authority to share information received in wiretap-based investigations.

TEXAS — Dallas Police Chief Terrell Bolton has assured state lawmakers that his staff would no longer receive overtime, prompting one state senator to withdraw a bill that would have barred police management from overtime. The Dallas Morning News has reported that Bolton and his staff collected \$96,000 in overtime for such events as attending a banquet thrown in the chief's honor.

Average response times by Bedford police have nearly doubled in the last five years, from 2 minutes and 32 seconds in 1996 to 4 minutes and 35 seconds in 2001. Police Chief David Flory said that the increase could be due to a number of factors, including a 29-percent increase in the number of domestic disturbance calls and a 12.5-percent increase in calls overall, while staffing levels have remained the same. Also, the average call processing time has increased from 20 seconds to 1 minute and 27 seconds.

Corpus Christi Police Chief Pete Alvarez has insisted that his department is doing all it could to track registered sex offenders. Alvarez said that as of April 19, there were 42 sex offenders suspected of being out of compliance with state registration laws. Alvarez assigned a detective, Gary Garrett, to sole responsibility for finding missing sex offenders.

UTAH — The Salt Lake County Council voted April 10 to void an agreement drawn up last year to merge sheriff's dispatch operations with the Valley Emergency Communications Center, a multi-jurisdictional police and fire dispatch service. Council members reportedly did not like the center's unwillingness to switch, at no cost, to the

county's computer system, and resented being asked to pay for most of the software to link the county's system with the center's.

Salt Lake County has agreed to sell its two helicopters to the state Highway Patrol for \$1.6 million. The helicopters were grounded last December by the now-defunct County Commission in response to a budget crunch.



CALIFORNIA — Oakland Police Chief Richard Word recently announced plans to purchase 800 Townson Law Enforcement Trauma Shooting Kits, which are specially designed to treat gunshot wounds in the field. The announcement came the day after the family of slain officer William "Willie" Wilkins filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit against the city and the two officers who shot him after mistaking him for an armed assailant. The kits, which include gauze, special sensors, rubber gloves and bandages, were developed by Larry Townson, an emergency medical technician, whose brother-in-law, Riverside officer Dennis Doty, was shot and killed along with his partner in 1982. [See LEN, July/August 2000.]

Fresno police officer Stanley Dennis Macias resigned April 16 after being arrested on felony charges of sexually molesting three children. Macias, who had been assigned to Bullard High School, is accused of molesting two relatives and a close acquaintance, all of whom are now adults. None of the alleged crimes occurred on school grounds or were related to his duties.

Officer Steven O'Neal, the Los Angeles policeman behind the wheel during a celebratory shooting spree, was sentenced April 18 to 200 hours of community service. He was also placed on three years probation, fined and told to join an alcohol treatment program. He will also be dismissed from the department. Gunshots rang out from O'Neal's sport utility vehicle in July 1999 after he and three other Los Angeles police officers left a party celebrating the end of probationary periods for some Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies. The other officers pleaded no-contest last year to felony charges of negligent discharge of a firearm.

Responding to recent shootings at other schools, Southwestern College trustees have decided to arm the school's seven-member police force with .40-caliber Glock handguns. The plan was approved despite objections from the teachers union and student leaders.

Calexico police officer Patrick K. Estrada, who is suspended with pay, recently traveled to Arizona and married the 16-year-old girl with whom he committed statutory rape. Prosecutors said that despite the marriage, which took place with the girl's mother's permission, the charges against Estrada will not be dropped. Estrada may have believed that his wife can't testify against him, but state prosecutors can compel her to testify if the alleged acts

occurred before the marriage.

NEVADA — The Las Vegas Citizen Review Board has ruled that any police officer accused of misconduct has the right to attend all of the board's closed hearings regarding the officer's alleged wrongdoings. The board's executive director, Andrea Beckman, said she hopes the ruling will encourage officers to show up and cooperate. Reacting to an earlier policy that allowed the board to sequester accused officers from any portion of the proceedings, the attorney for the Police Protective Association had advised officers not to show up or testify at the hearings.

OREGON — Multnomah County Sheriff Dan Noelle is cutting staff positions in order to cover a \$536,000 budget shortfall. In addition to cutting some civilian jobs, including the head of information and computer services, Noelle plans to merge the duties of the chief deputy sheriff with the undersheriff's job, and two deputies have been laid off. The department's presence on an interagency child abuse team is being ended in order to assign the three detectives and one sergeant to patrol or corrections duties.

Beverton police Sgt. Tim Moran has resigned and seven officers have been suspended after pulling a prank on colleagues engaged in a stakeout. With Moran's approval, seven off-duty officers decided to scare four officers who were conducting a burglary stakeout at a local business. One of the pranksters banged on a squad car while another posed as a burglar. An officer on the stakeout called for back-up, stepped out of his vehicle and drew his gun. When the man identified himself as a fellow officer, a heated exchange ensued.

WASHINGTON — In Seattle, police have arrested Derrell Morris, a man they say threatened the lives of officer Gary McNulty and his wife. Street contacts told McNulty that Morris had put out a contract on him because he and others were upset with McNulty's efforts in conjunction with local merchants to clean up drug dealing and prostitution. Police are investigating at least two other men who are thought to have been part of the scheme.

With some glitches remaining in the Law Enforcement Activity and Data System of the joint Tacoma/Pierce County 911 and crime records agency, the Pierce County Council recently appropriated an extra \$1.5 million to help work out the bugs. LEADS was supposed to come online in January 2000, but errors in the transition from the old system left some users unable to retrieve correct information on criminal backgrounds or outstanding warrants.

The fallout from the alleged mishandling of a rape investigation by the Pomeroy Police Department was finally settled this week when the Pomeroy City Council and Mayor Clay Barr agreed to offer Sgt. Steve Kazda a cash settlement to drop an appeal of his dismissal. They also gave Cpl. Randy Forcier the chance to resign with a severance package. Since both men accepted the offers and Chief Dave Boyer retired last month, Pomeroy's force has been left understaffed. The city is currently working out a contract with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services.

Tough choice

A former top aide to Secretary of Education William J. Bennett and chief of enforcement and supply reduction at the White House Office of Drug Control Policy during the last Bush administration, John P. Walters is the apparent choice of President Bush for the position of drug czar.

Walters, 49, is currently president of the Philanthropy Roundtable, a conservative association, and was previously president of the New Citizenship Project, a group that promotes an increased role for religion in public life. A harsh critic of the Clinton Administration's drug policies, Walters served briefly as director of the drug policy office in 1993 before quitting in protest when his staff was slashed from 146 to 25 and policy was redirected from law enforcement and interdiction to a focus on hard-core users.



Walters
Getting tough

Among the elements of a successful drug enforcement program outlined by Walters are longer prison sentences for violent felons, marijuana smugglers and repeat offenders. He shares the view with Bennett, a former drug czar himself, that drugs should be publicly stigmatized at home while the military is mobilized against narcotics producers abroad.

Along with Bennett and John J. Dilulio, who heads a White House office on religion-based community initiatives, Walters wrote the 1997 book "Body Count: Moral Poverty and How to Win America's War against Crime and Drugs." The authors warned of a coming wave of young criminals they termed "superpredators."

In 1996, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Walters called on the president to make use of the "hilly pulpit" to heighten awareness of the dangers of drugs and scorned what he characterized as an "ineffectual policy — the latest manifestation of the liberals' commitment to a 'therapeutic state' in which government serves as the agent of personal rehabilitation."

While Walters contends that his background makes him more credible on the soft issues surrounding demand reduction, including treatment, some have found his rhetoric disconcerting. Said the most recent drug policy director, retired Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey: "Some of his positions in my own view need to be carefully considered by the confirmation committee. I am hopeful to maintain a commitment to the bipartisan support for treatment programs."

McCaffrey added that he was "shocked" by Walters's concern that there is "too much treatment capacity in the United States."

Before settling on its nominee, the Bush administration had also considered Bill McCollum, a former Florida representative, for the post, along with Jim McDonough, the Florida drug czar, and Rick Romley, an Arizona district attorney.

Another recent nominee for a post that will shape criminal justice policy is John Robert Flores, who has been named to head the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Currently vice president and senior counsel for the National Law Center for Children and Families, Flores served in the Justice Department from 1989 to 1997 in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division.

"Robert Flores will play a crucial role in preventing juvenile crime," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "His long record of service will be an asset to the department. I look forward to drawing upon his expertise as we work to stop violence among America's youth."

Holyoke-y doke-y

Bringing the version of community policing he implemented as police chief of Rock Island, Ill., to Holyoke, Mass., is the goal that Anthony M. Scott has set for himself when he assumes command of the Bay State department on May 21.

Scott, 54, accepted the \$94,000-a-year job a week after it was offered to him this month by Holyoke Mayor Michael Sullivan. He delayed his acceptance, he said, partly because he wanted to give Rock Island officials — who had been lobbying him to stay — the chance to make a counteroffer.

"I think he's going to bring a lot of workplace ethos to the Holyoke Police Department," said Sullivan. "I think it's going to be really positive."

Scott, who is black, will be Holyoke's first minority-group police leader. However, Sullivan asserted that race played no part in the hiring decision, despite the city's high percentage of Hispanic residents.

Scott was a member of the New Orleans Police Department for 21 years and then a chief for 13 years, three of

those in Athol, Mass., and 10 in Rock Island.

Sullivan said he was impressed by Scott's style of community policing. He gave attention to little things, the mayor said, from meeting with neighbors to traffic tickets. During his tenure at Rock Island, Scott worked to make the city's west side safer, noted Alderman Terry Brooks.

"People used to not let their kids play outside, but now it is nearly summer and you see kids all over the place," he said. "He has done a lot."

Said Scott: "This philosophy has to start at the top and work its way down to the bottom. And the police department is only as good as the community."

Rock Island had offered Scott a 7-percent raise if he would stay, boosting his salary from \$73,868 to \$79,742. His three-year contract in Holyoke calls for an annual salary of \$94,000. Another reason for the move to Holyoke, Scott said, was his wife's desire to return to Massachusetts.

Street savvy

Dr. D. Kim Rossmo, the Police Foundation's new Director of Research, wants to "move the ivory tower a bit closer to Raymond Chandler's mean streets," building on the foundation's history of envelope-pushing research to better integrate the worlds of the academician and the practitioner.

Rossmo is a 21-year veteran of the Vancouver, B.C., Police Department and the creator of the geographic profiling methodology [See LEN, June 15, 2000]. During the course of his career, he has worked with local, national and international law enforcement agencies including Scotland Yard, the FBI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in sociology, Rossmo also holds a master's degree and a doctorate in criminology. He is an adjunct profes-

sor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and a visiting professor at the University of Houston-Downtown.

"Kim Rossmo brings a rare combination of distinguished practical experience and academic excellence in the policing field," said the foundation's president, Hubert Williams. "He is particularly well suited to tackle some of the very technical challenges the police face in this new century."

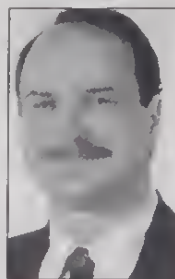
Geographic profiling is a process whereby investigators can calculate the probable location of a serial killer's home by graphing the sites of his crimes using a sophisticated software program developed by Rossmo. While it may not solve the crime, it helps police narrow down thousands of tips they may receive, he said.

The technique has been used successfully in Canada, where it was used to find Clifford Olson, a serial killer who committed 11 murders in British Columbia. The map produced by the program outlined a four-square block area around Olson's home, although his victims were dumped miles away.

New York City police detectives have also used geographic profiling to help catch the East Side rapist, who is believed to have committed as many as 16 attacks on women since 1994.

Stars of Bethlehem

When Bethlehem, Pa., Police Commissioner Eugene Learn and Deputy Commissioner Herbert Goldfeder walked out the door of the Town Hall this month after a retirement party in



Rossmo
The doctor is in

their honor, the two veteran cops took 61 years of law enforcement experience with them.

Learn and Goldfeder came up through the ranks together, joining the Bethlehem Police Department in 1969 and 1971, respectively. In 1988, Learn was promoted to lieutenant. He was named staff captain in 1990, deputy commissioner in 1996 and then commissioner the following year.

Goldfeder was an accident investigator and criminal investigator before being promoted to sergeant in 1982, then lieutenant in 1989. Before being named deputy commissioner in 1997, he served as captain in 1994 and supervised the department's special operations units.

"I had a great career, and I'm going to miss everybody," he said, acknowledging Learn as his mentor. "Thanks for the years; it's been great."

Added Learn: "It's been an amazing trip, an amazing experience. There have been so many great times. It's one helluva place to work."

Among Learn's last acts was the introduction to the county police chiefs' association of Francis Donchez, a 20-year veteran who is replacing him. The former head of the department's Community Services Division, Donchez took over on April 4.

"[Learn and Goldfeder] had great careers, and taught me a lot," Donchez told The (Allentown) Morning Call. "I'm sure they taught a lot to other people in the department. Their retirements are the end of a chapter. I hope their next chapter is as successful."

St. Pete beat

While some community activists are disappointed that St. Petersburg, Fla., Mayor Rick Baker is going to replace Police Chief Goliath Davis 3d, Davis will not be leaving town. He will, instead, become the city's deputy mayor for midtown economic development.

In his new post, Davis will carry out Baker's campaign pledge to revitalize St. Petersburg's predominantly black south-central area.

Davis was appointed chief in 1997 by then-mayor David Fischer. The city's first African American chief, Davis stepped in after the shooting of a black motorist set off two nights of rioting. His tenure has had its controversies. A longtime advocate of drug rehabilitation, he was roundly criticized after rejecting a federal Weed and Seed grant, the funds from which were to go toward imprisoning drug users.

He also caused a stir early in his administration when he fired an officer for grabbing a suspect by the shirt, and disciplined the officer's sergeant. But Davis contends that his approach is vindicated by statistics: Crime is down, as are the number of complaints against sworn personnel.

Davis believes that many of the moves he has made resulted in complaints and lawsuits because of his race. His white predecessors, he told The Tampa Tribune, did not seem to run into the same difficulties. "For some reason, some people don't want to afford me the same leeway and freedom to run the department that prior chiefs exercised routinely," said Davis, who will retire on Oct. 5, when he marks 28 years with the department.

Now you see them, now you don't

Two retirements, one promotion, a resignation and a comeback marked the comings and goings of police chiefs in several cities and small towns this month.

Kinston, N.C., Police Chief Michael Wightman announced his retirement on April 6, effective immediately. Wightman has been the focus of two internal investigations, probes that city officials say will end with the chief's departure.

Wightman, who became chief in 1994, was placed on administrative suspension on April 6. The inquiries began after a citizen lodged 13 complaints against him. While a law firm hired by the city failed to substantiate the claims, the investigation led to a second probe.

In Fall River, Mass., Chief Francis J. McDonald gave into the wishes of his cardiologist last month by retiring after 30 years on the city police force. McDonald, who led the agency for 12 years, recently underwent heart surgery and had been considering taking a medical retirement ever since.

"It's a difficult thing for me to do," he said, "and it's been an honor. I've had so much fun. You don't know. I can't express it."

McDonald said he will not take the full credit city leaders have given him for improving Fall River's crime statistics. Residents, he said, have done their part to stop crime. "Fall River is a community with people who care," he said. "The people of Fall River care about the quality of life."

Mayor Barbara Hickman of Oak Hill, W. Va., cast the deciding vote last month that gave the city's acting police chief, Delmas "Butch" Lawhorn, the job permanently. Lawhorn, a 19-year veteran, has served as acting chief since the resignation of Fred Dickinson in January. Under his supervision, the department's 10 officers have conducted door checks on local businesses at night and walk through the town several times a day.

City Council members had split 3-3 on Lawhorn's appointment. Said Councilwoman Anna Lou Hult: "When people display leadership qualities within a department, I feel it is better

to promote them, better for them and their co-workers."

In Yemassee, S.C., city officials said goodbye in April to Police Chief Jack Hagy, who is resigning after leading the department for 12 years. Hagy has accepted a job as captain with the Hampton, S.C., Police Department. "Chief Hagy tendered a letter of resignation, and with strong regret, the mayor and council have accepted it," said Mayor J.L. Goodwin. "We hate to see him go. We're losing a good man." Hagy's last day will be May 4.

When the town of Oakville, Iowa, was unable to find a new chief, it lured back its old one, Jeff Blake. Blake, who had resigned in December to spend more time with his family, returned on a part-time basis in March. Of concern to residents are the junk cars and trash around town, which Blake said he plans to clean up. But before he begins towing vehicles, Blake suggested that officials invest in a Dumpster, giving property owners a chance to clean up after themselves.

"Cycle of violence" thesis supported by new data

Quantifying what has always seemed just common sense about the so-called cycle of violence, a new study has found that children who have been maltreated are more prone to get into trouble with police and to commit violent offenses as both juveniles and adults.

The results stem from the latest update of a longitudinal study by the National Institute of Justice, which followed a group of 1,575 children over a period of 25 years, comparing the arrest rates of those who had been abused or neglected with those who had not.

When last gathered in 1988, at which time the subjects' average age was 26, the data revealed that future delinquency and adult criminality increased overall by 29 percent. Six years later, in 1994, research based on additional arrest data showed those who had been mistreated were 59 percent more likely to have been arrested as a juvenile; 28 percent more likely as an adult; and 30 percent more likely to have committed a violent crime.

"Earlier reports demonstrated that child abuse and neglect increased the likelihood of delinquency, adult criminality, and violent criminal behavior," said the report. "These updated results document the persistence of the relationship in demonstrable long-term consequences for criminal behavior. Poor educational performance, mental health problems, and generally low levels of achievement also characterize victims of early childhood abuse and neglect studied here."

Among the report's key findings was that neglect is potentially more damaging to the development of a child than physical abuse, unless the abuse causes neurological impairment. Neglect, characterized as extreme failure

to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing and medical attention, was twice as prevalent in 1986 as was physical abuse, according to the study, "An Update on the 'Cycle of Violence.'"

The study was conducted by Cathy S. Widom, a professor of psychiatry at the New Jersey Medical School, and Michael G. Maxfield, a professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University. They cited research showing that early malnutrition resulted in poorer emotional stability than a comparison group, reduced social skills and attention deficits. "Coupled with the present study's findings of a greater risk of later criminal violence among neglected children, these behavioral and developmental differences suggest a need for concerted preventive action," the authors wrote.

According to the study, children who had been abused and neglected were considerably more likely to have been arrested at some point in their lives than other youngsters. Twenty-seven percent of those who had been abused or neglected were arrested as juveniles, compared with 17 percent of the non-abused group, and those figures climbed to 42 percent and 33 percent by adulthood. Eighteen percent of maltreated youngsters committed violent crimes, compared to 14 percent of those who were not abused.

The sample included 908 subjects with recorded instances of abuse or neglect processed by the courts from 1967 to 1971. These were matched with a control group of 667 children who had no such records. Both groups were both two-thirds white and one-third black, and about evenly divided between males and females. Most were between the ages of 6 and 11 when the abuse was documented.

Abused and neglected youngsters, the researchers said, were at higher risk for arrest at an earlier age. They also were arrested more frequently and committed nearly twice as many offenses. On average, their first arrest was at 16.5 years of age, compared with 17.5 years for the control group. Seventeen percent of abused youngsters were arrested more than five times, a rate nearly double the 9 percent of the comparison group, the study noted.

Gender and race also played significant roles in the future criminality of neglected and abused children, influencing not only the frequency of arrests, but the nature of the offense.

While males generally have higher rates of criminality than females, said the study, 73 percent of the girls who were abused were more likely to be arrested for property, drug and alcohol offenses, as well as misdemeanor offenses such as disorderly conduct, curfew violations and loitering. They were more than twice as likely to be arrested for a violent crime than females in the comparison group — 8.2 percent versus 3.6 percent.

Conversely, abused or neglected male children were not at increased risk for violent offending as teenagers or adults. They did, however, amass more arrests for such acts than did males in the comparison group, said the study.

"Thus, a gender difference exists in the effect of childhood victimization on risk for arrest for violence," the authors reported. "For females, there is an increased risk for participation. For males, there is an increased risk in the frequency of participation (the number of violent arrests). Childhood victimization increases arrests for violence among females and males, but in different ways."

Chicago sweetens the deal for cops in public housing assignments

An incentive approach previously used by Chicago police officials to sweeten the deal for officers willing to take assignments in high-crime districts is being used again to persuade sworn personnel to move to the department's public housing unit.

Police Superintendent Terry Hillard hopes to attract 150 officers with a package of new incentives. The housing unit is currently staffed by just 300 officers, although it is authorized to have at least 450, officials said. In an agency-wide letter issued this month, Hillard promised volunteers no graveyard shifts if they made the move, and a switch to 10-hour shifts that would provide an extra week off over a 49-day work cycle. Moreover, none of the officers would be required to work more than five days in a row.

The department, Hillard wrote, is trying to "provide more efficient police service, maximize assigned manpower at peak demand times and attract officers to the public housing section."

Hillard's spokesman, David Bayless, noted that the Superintendent could have reassigned officers to the unit, but they could have then moved to other districts through seniority bidding. Hillard could also have filled the slots with rookies. Instead, under the pilot program, which will be in place through at least the summer of 2002,

the unit will be filled with officers who want to build relationships with community members, and will have the proper balance between newcomers and veteran officers, Bayless said.

The program also has the blessing of the local Fraternal Order of Police. FOP president Bill Nolan said the union agreed to the incentive plan because members feared that Hillard would begin drafting officers randomly to serve in public housing. Bayless denied that, saying it was never a "practical option."

In a non-binding vote on a failed

contract proposal this year, members were split evenly over whether they wanted to work a 10-hour shift, Nolan added. Many are looking forward to not having to work a six-day week. "This could be a cure-all for the whole department, but it's a pilot program at this point," he told The Chicago Sun-Times.

The union embraced an incentive program last year that offered a \$1,000 bonus and choice assignments to officers who completed a five-year tour in high-crime areas [see LEN, Nov. 15, 2000]. The proposal was made by

Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration after The Sun-Times reported that four of the city's most dangerous districts being patrolled largely by an unending stream of rookies. Once the newcomers gained enough seniority to transfer out, they were replaced a new group of inexperienced officers.

The FOP approved of the incentive plan because it believed that even in high-crime areas, officers tend to stay where they are assigned. And it was able, under the proposal, to retain 80 percent of district and shift assignments.

Making tracks on drug enforcement

Civil libertarians in New Mexico were disturbed to learn this month that Albuquerque's local Amtrak office receives 10 percent of assets seized by federal agents who were provided with personal information on passengers by the railroad company.

According to a report in The Albuquerque Journal, a computer link exists between the city's Amtrak ticketing terminal and the local DEA office, which allows drug agents to sift through passenger names and itineraries, and see whether they paid in cash or credit. The information apparently helps to determine whose luggage will be screened

by drug-sniffing dogs.

Federal authorities and railroad officials defended the practice, noting that the joint effort has resulted in "substantial" seizures of drugs and cash. "We provide a limited amount of information about our passengers to the DEA and other agencies as part of their law enforcement activities," Debbie Hare, an Amtrak spokeswoman, told The Associated Press. "I can't tell you how long it has been going on, but this program exists all over the country."

The computer, she said, belongs to an Amtrak investigator who is a deputized member of the DEA task force.

Said DEA Agent Kevin Small, "Our agreement is: Anything we seize off the train, they get 10 percent." The tips, he told The AP, are passed all over the country.

While officials from both organizations deny that privacy issues are involved, the practice has raised the hackles of the state's ACLU affiliate.

"What they are doing raises serious issues about invasions of privacy, about Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted search and seizures, and about equal protection rights related to profiling by racial or income types," said executive director Peter Simonson

Local focal point:

Illinois to aid at-risk kids

A pilot program aimed at helping communities assess children exposed to violence and find the best psychological treatment for them will be launched in three Illinois locations in July.

The initiative, "Safe from the Start," is a joint effort by the office of state Attorney General Jim Ryan and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Annual grants of \$100,000 will fund programs for three years in Peoria County, southwestern Madison County and Hoffman Estates.

Under the program, the efforts of law enforcement, substance abuse treatment, public health and domestic violence shelters will pool their knowledge, said Jim Fraser, director of program services for Chestnut Health Systems, which served as the grant-writing agency for the coalition of state and local agencies.

"It's to get people out of their traditional boxes and to get us brought together, saying, 'These are the same issues we're dealing with, the same families,'" he told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"Let's prevent these issues. By talking and working together, we're doing a lot better than on our own."

With regard to race, the study found that black abused and neglected children were more likely to commit violent crimes than their non-abused counterparts. By contrast, white abused children were found to be no more likely to do so than the comparison group of white youngsters. Researchers speculated that the findings may reflect differences in such environmental factors as poverty levels, family characteristics, the nature of the abuse or neglect and access to counseling or juvenile sup-

port services.

As teenagers, black children who had been mistreated were found to be twice as likely overall to be involved in criminality than African American youngsters who had not been abused. As adults, the disparity narrowed to 59.8 percent for those who had been abused and neglected compared to 43.6 percent for their non-abused counterparts.

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Cyber-notices work for small department

E-mail bulletins sent to residents of Hinesburg, Vt., by their police department are replacing the printed flier and the old "knock at the door" as a means of getting the word out about robberies and other crimes committed in the neighborhood.

The program was launched about two months ago, said Police Chief Chris Morrell, and since then about a half-dozen bulletins have been sent out. "We're very much into working with the community rather than the more traditional 'police take care of it' routine," he told Law Enforcement News.

Hinesburg, with a population of just under 5,000, is in Chittenden County — the state's most populous. While he did not know the exact statistics, Morrell said that Vermont has a higher percentage of homes with computers than the national average. And being so close to Burlington, that figure is probably even greater in Hinesburg, he said. "It seems to me that everyone I talk to lately has a computer."

Morrell believes that sending e-mails is more expedient than posting bulletins on a department Web site. More people are likely to check their messages when they come home, he said. "You want to catch their attention for one minute

of the day when something happens in their area," said Morrell.

The department has broken the town down into geographic areas. Unless an incident affects the entire jurisdiction, only residents in the neighborhood where the crime occurred receive a bulletin.

"The idea is, people get enough e-mail, they don't want a whole bunch of self-promoting information," the chief said. "They want the facts, they want it concise."

The popularity of the online approach surprised the department, said Morrell. A tremendous number of residents expressed interest in the e-mail bulletins, as did police from other cities, including one from Rhode Island, he said.

"Anyone who's been in police work knows the drill where you have a burglary and you go up and down the street knocking on doors," he told LEN. "Today, with working families, mothers and fathers are at work, nobody's home, and you have to call back in the evening. This makes it more efficient in that respect."

So far, the e-mail bulletins have not helped police solve any crimes, but Morrell said he is sure they will eventually. "We have gotten information that's been useful."

Chronic spouse abusers get unwanted publicity

Chronic domestic-violence offenders are getting a sizable dose of unwanted publicity in Omaha, where the police department is featuring the abusers' photographs in newspaper ads as a way of combating repeat victimization and bringing down the agency's backlog of outstanding warrants.

Each month, 10 new pictures of domestic abusers will appear in The Omaha World-Herald, along with the names of 100 or more people with outstanding warrants, whether or not they have previous convictions. The first ads appeared on April 26 and are being run through the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Greater Omaha.

The department has a backlog of approximately 250 such warrants, said Lieut. Mike Butera of the Special Investigation Unit, which handles domestic violence incidents.

"If you have that many offenders out there, the potential for re-victimization obviously increases," he told Law Enforcement News. "In an effort to impact our daily case load of reports, we decided that if we attack warrants and try to get these people into court, into the system where they belong, then we

will have an impact on the number of repeat calls and repeat victimizations that we have."

In 1997, the council ran similar ads that listed 122 names, but no photographs. About 40 percent of the people listed after that were arrested, some turned themselves in and other were found through tips, said Sgt. Charlie Venditte of the domestic violence squad.

Butera said the photographs were chosen after looking through files. The offenders shown are among the most dangerous, he said.

It will be difficult, he conceded, to ascertain whether the publicity campaign has been successful because of the number of variables that come into play when someone is arrested. "Maybe the ad did precipitate them turning themselves in, maybe someone recognized them and it precipitated a phone call," Butera told LEN.

Joan Skogstrom, director of the coordinating council, said the strategy has worked in other cities. "When people see them, they want to do something about it." She noted, however, that the response was not as significant this time

around as it had been three years ago.

"One of the three goals of this ad is offender accountability, and it is definitely victim safety, and the third, which is least important but still very important to us, is public awareness. I think that's where we got the most bang for our buck," Skogstrom told LEN.

In addition to the ads and photographs, police are also mailing letters to those not yet listed with a copy of the newspaper, urging them to turn themselves in if they want to avoid similar exposure. The department, he said, has also found general sweeps to be successful and will be making them again.

"We have groups of officers, maybe 20, in teams of two," said Butera. "We have packets for them and we say, 'Okay, here's a list of people with outstanding warrants, and this twosome gets this 10 and that twosome another 10,' and at 5 a.m. on a Saturday night, we're knocking on doors."

The ad campaign is being partially financed by a \$13,700 grant from the Justice Department. All costs beyond that are being paid for by the coordinating council.

Free medical care proves incentive for getting arrested

While still believed to be no more than a localized problem, concern is growing in some jurisdictions over the number of people, often with serious illnesses, who get themselves arrested so that counties will pick up the tab for their medical treatment.

In Ouachita Parish, La., municipal police last month arrested Larry Causey for attempted robbery of a post office in West Monroe. Causey, 57, has cancer of the colon, intestines and prostate, in addition to diabetes and polycythemia, a blood condition that requires regular transfusions. While in jail, doctors put him on three types of medication and perform procedures that will determine the extent of his illness, all at county expense.

"Larry's very sick, so getting arrested made him very happy," said his attorney, Jay Nolan. Causey, a convicted felon, purposely committed a federal crime because he knew he would receive superior medical treat-

ment in a federal facility, said the lawyer. Causey will have to wait until his sentencing hearing in August before he can be moved into the federal system.

"He told me he felt that if he did not get medical attention, he was going to die," Nolan told The Associated Press.

Stephen J. Ingley, executive director of the American Jailers Association, said at this point, all evidence of people seeking jail for the sole purpose of medical care is anecdotal. "All jails have to provide medical care. Whether that is done by the jail, inside the jail, or in the hospital, the jail has to insure that it's done if they [prisoners] are in their care and custody," he told Law Enforcement News. "Clearly, certain illnesses can bankrupt a jail or even a community" depending on the level of insurance.

In Hall County, Neb., commissioners were scheduled to meet with members of Congress last month to see if the state or federal government would

share county medical expenses for inmates, which, despite a doahling of the budget in 2001 to \$100,000, have already exceeded \$130,000 so far this year. Two patients, one in intensive care and another with a heart attack, were responsible for \$70,000 of the total, according to Dave Arnold, director of the county's corrections department.

"A lot of times when they get arrested they say, 'I've got this [illness]. You're going to have to take care of it,'" said Sheriff Dale Radcliff of York County, Neb.

Lincoln, Neb., Police Chief Tom Casady told The AP that he will often wait to arrest someone if they need hospital care. The charges are made after they have been released.

"If it's a lesser crime, you can just let him out on bond," said Sheriff Wayne Houck of Lincoln Parish, La. "It can be a major problem. We're talking about thousands of dollars of taxpayer money just to treat one prisoner"

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND CHIEF OF POLICE

The City of Rock Island is recruiting for an experienced Chief of Police to supervise and manage the Police Department.

Rock Island has a population of 39,683 residents and is located in western Illinois along the Mississippi River. Rock Island, Moline and East Moline in Illinois and Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, make up the metro area called the "Quad Cities," with a population of 350,861.

The Rock Island Police Department has a history of providing excellent police services to citizens and enjoys broad community support. The department has 114 full-time employees, which consists of 86 officers and 28 civilian employees. Police operations are separated into four major areas: administration, patrol, major crime and technical services. The Police Department is also responsible for the telecommunications center which dispatches all public safety calls.

This is highly responsible professional, administrative and management work in planning, organizing and directing all activities of the Rock Island Police Department. Work involves responsibility for planning, organizing and directing the efficient operation of the department including the establishment of all policies, procedures and regulations. Supervision is exercised directly or through subordinates over all employees in the department. Work is performed under the direction of the City Manager.

The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership skills and be effective in maintaining community involvement and support. Strong communication, organizational and management skills are also required.

The candidate requires graduation from a four-year college or university with major course work in law enforcement and thorough experience in various aspects of police operations as a police officer and a command officer. Experience and success with community-oriented policing is important.

Rock Island has enjoyed a stable administration. The prior chief accepted another police chief position after 10 years of service and the city manager has held the position for 14 years.

The salary range is \$50,951 to \$79,040. The city offers an excellent fringe benefit package which includes pension, major medical, paid leave, tuition reimbursement and also contributes 5 percent of salary to ICMA's 457-deferred compensation plan.

Applications (including résumés and cover letters) will be accepted in the Personnel Department, Rock Island City Hall, 1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. To request an application by mail, call (309) 732-2050. Applicant confidentiality will be protected through the recruitment process. A City of Rock Island application must be completed to be considered, and is available on our Web site, www.rigov.org. Applications will be accepted through July 15, 2001.

Newspaper blows the call on a bias killing that never was

A closeted gay man, his violent death at the hands of two attackers, and the sorrow of friends and family who would not find out about the death for days due to media indifference and the victim's secret life. It sounds more like a film script than the actual murder it was reported to be this month by The Philadelphia Inquirer — and the newspaper has since sheepishly conceded that it was just that, a would-be screenplay.

"It was a very bad breakdown in our editing process," said editorial page editor Chris Satullo. "Questions should have been asked that would have forced a call to the Philadelphia Police Department, which would have discovered

that this incident didn't take place."

The April 14 column by freelance writer Thom Nickels described the "double tragedy" of the victim's friends, most of them gay, being unable to come forward because the victim's parents were still unaware of their son's sexual orientation. In his story, Nickels described two gay men confronted by two robbers. One of the assailants plunged a knife into the victim, and then the two ran off.

When the column appeared, reporters, concerned that they had overlooked a daytime stabbing in the prominent Washington Square neighborhood, called the police department who confirmed that no such incident occurred.

At that point, Nickels admitted that the story was fiction. Apparently, he had been tricked by a screenwriter friend, who told him the story in a such a manner that he believed the lack of coverage was due to the victim having been gay.

Nickels, who has written several short novels with gay protagonists, said, "It was a movie script about a murder that did not take place. I really regret that I did not call the police and check up on this thing."

MOVING?

Please send change-of-address notices at least 6-8 weeks in advance.

New look at Detroit's handling of homicides

The Detroit Police Department already has among the lowest homicide clearance rates of any big-city department in the nation. Now a new statistic is dogging the agency — having one of the highest arrest ratios per murder case.

The latest source of controversy is a policy that witnesses and lawyers allege the DPD to have, which entails detaining people in homicide investigations for hours, or even days, without obtaining a court order of filing criminal charges in an effort to make them talk. The accusations came to the forefront in March when the agency was sued in federal court after allegedly holding two men without probable cause in separate 1998 slayings. The suit seeks a court order banning the "pattern and practice of arresting witnesses who may have knowledge of murders but who are not involved in the actual murders."

According to figures published by The Detroit Free Press, local police made 1,310 arrests while investigating 430 deaths in 1998, and 1,152 arrests in 415 murders in 1999. By comparison, New York had 748 arrests in 664 cases; Chicago, 637 arrests in 642 cases; and Los Angeles, 289 arrests in 425 cases.

Criminologists were surprised by both the figures and the alleged policy. "From the outside, it seems outrageous and extraordinary. Three-to-one is just off the charts," James Alan Fox, a

criminologist at Northeastern University, told The Associated Press.

Temple University criminologist James Fyfe, a former New York City police lieutenant, said he had never heard of such a policy "in all the study and practice I've done in this area."

While denying that the department makes wholesale sweeps of homicide

typically uncooperative."

Under Michigan law, prosecutors can seek an investigative subpoena and use it to compel testimony from witnesses. Those who do not comply can face up to a year in jail. The statute is not specific, however, on how long a person may be detained without appearing before a judge or magistrate. Most

Officials blame "antiquated" computer software for the high ratio of arrests to murders. The FBI wants its own answers.

witnesses, Police Chief Benny Napoleon has begun an internal review. Police officials had told The Free Press that a number of witnesses had been jailed for fighting with investigators, harboring suspects and interfering with investigations.

Mayor Dennis Archer and his press secretary, Greg Owens, said police had told them "antiquated" computer software could be responsible for the high ratio of arrests to murders, and that officers might accidentally enter a suspect's name two or three times. Moreover, people with outstanding warrants arrested at a homicide scene might be listed in arrests connected with that crime, yet have had nothing to do with it. Archer added that police could also detain people who are "momen-

cours attempt to arrange appearances within 48 hours, assistant state attorney general Robert Ianni told The AP.

"The law is obvious," said Alan Saltzman, a professor at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, in an interview with The New York Times. "If you take somebody into custody, that's an arrest, even if they're not charged, and you have to have probable cause to make an arrest."

Police are allowed to detain someone briefly if there is a reasonable suspicion that the person was involved in a crime, but the practice of taking people away from a crime scene against their will is a violation of the Fourth Amendment, Saltzman said.

Yet in the Detroit Police Department's manual, officers are given

the authority to transport witnesses from murder scenes to headquarters for interviews at the direction of the homicide division. One sergeant testifying in a recent case involving a witness who sued the department for false arrest acknowledged that holding witnesses was part of his training and that witnesses were frequently held overnight.

"You're comfortable having violated someone's rights?" asked Daniel Romano, the attorney for the plaintiff, Janetta Toles. "Yes," replied the sergeant, Reginald Harvel.

"And you'll do it again, won't you?" asked Romano. "Yes," said Harvel.

Toles, who was arrested in March 1997 after a homicide was committed in her building, was held for nearly four days at police headquarters. She was forced to leave her infant and a 2-year-old with a teenage neighbor she barely knew, never offered a lawyer and was unable to make phone calls. She was released, Toles said, for only a few hours during that time.

The city settled her suit for \$200,000. Since 1987, Detroit has paid \$123 million to settle lawsuits against the police. Last year, it paid \$500,000 to five people who claimed they were held as witnesses in a 1999 murder case. In addition to City Council hearings on

the number of claims against the department, the Justice Department has launched an investigation into police shootings of civilians and the conditions under which some have died or taken ill while in custody.

Federal authorities have also taken an interest in the city's inflated crime statistics, with the FBI said to be considering scratching Detroit's crime figures from the 2000 Uniform Crime Report due to inaccurate reporting. "We're going to take a hard look at their numbers and make some hard decisions," said Mary Victoria Pyne, director of the FBI's communications unit.

For the past 17 years, Detroit has reported 10 percent or more crime than has actually occurred. Officials blame the problem on old equipment and software which cannot erase data about incidents that police later conclude are unfounded.

State Police and the FBI were called in by the police department last month after suspiciously high arrest rates were reported, said Comdr. Dennis Richardson. "The system we have was designed 25 or 30 years ago," he said. Fixing the problem will cost millions of dollars, Richardson noted. The FBI has said it will help the department find the money to update the system.

HEAT shows community policing can be more than "warm & fuzzy"

Their town: Arlington, Texas. Their beat: Anywhere there's crime. Their name: the Hot Spot Enforcement and Assistance Team — better known as HEAT.

Seemingly defying those who might view a community-based approach as no more than "warm and fuzzy" policing, the four-member unit is the department's unconventional approach to tackling repeated offenses and neighborhood community problems. For more than a year, the HEAT unit and its supervisor have been used to solve such problems as repeated car thefts from a certain location and persistent drug activity at an apartment complex. Last summer, the team helped catch a group of suspects accused of robbing several restaurants.

The idea for HEAT was developed by Deputy Chief Michael Ikner when he was a lieutenant on the city's east side during the late 1990s. At that time, the department was moving forward with a community policy strategy, focusing on hot-spot management and problem solving. Ikner told Law Enforcement News that he created a team concept with the department's fourth watch, officers who provided coverage during a shift change. The loosely structured unit was able to resolve a number of neighborhood issues, such as eliminating loiterers at a car wash.

Ikner took the idea with him to the west district when he was promoted to commander in 1999. "I had the opportunity again to cull out a number of officers," he told LEN. "I wanted them to really focus on street-level duties, have a team of officers to really go into a hot spot and not be worried about

bringing them out until they solved the problem. They weren't really tied to 'answering calls for service,' or to be out there doing swing-shift hours. Their responsibility was if we had a burglary problem in a certain area, to go out and solve that."

The hand-picked officers, Don Pilcher, Dao Nouanesengsy, J.P. Mason and Larry Baldridge, have been sent to school to learn surveillance techniques, the installation of electronic devices and warrant service. "They're jacks of all trades," said Ikner. Unlike other patrol officers, they also handle their own investigations instead of passing them on to detectives.

"Instead of always asking for assistance from narcotics unit or special operations, they learn all of these tactics themselves," said Ikner. "They have been pretty much doing outstanding work."

The unit works a four-day week, with hours from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. But they understand, said Ikner, that they could be called in at a moment's notice. On the west side, the team recently got a court order to put a tracking device on one of the city's habitual offenders who was committing smash-and-grab thefts, he said. The first night the suspect was tracked, he was arrested for burglary. Ikner said the department will be able to clear dozens of commercial burglaries.

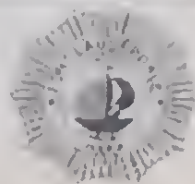
"So they've really been a very effective unit," he said. "They have helped all the sergeants in their beat, and all three lieutenants in their sectors, to have that resource to be out there several days until the problem is solved, or at least reduced somewhat."

Deputy Chief Del Fisher, the east district commander, said he found the HEAT unit to be a good use of manpower. "There are a lot of ways to deploy officers, and there are advantages and disadvantages to each," he told The Fort Worth Star Telegram.

Leo Dadigan, a consultant and instructor for the International Association of Chiefs of Police also praised the unit for its cost-effectiveness. "There are other departments doing similar programs, but this one is unique in that these guys attack a variety of problems without having to use several different specialized units," he said.

POLICE CHIEF

\$81,453-\$123,926 annually depending on qualifications, with excellent benefit package.



The City of Fort Lauderdale, FL (pop. 165,000) will be having an opening for Police Chief in October 2001 due to the retirement of our current Police Chief (\$60 million budget, 495 sworn, and 240 civilian employees). The ideal candidate should have:

Successfully graduated from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in police administration, public administration or other closely related field. A Masters degree or additional management level training in criminal justice or public administration is highly desirable.

Five years highly responsible command level experience in a large urban department (population of 100,000 or greater).

Please send resume and salary history by July 11 to:

International Association of Chiefs of Police
515 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Attention: Kim Kolhepp
800-THE IACP
Search@theiacp.org

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE

IS SEEKING A

Deputy Chief of Police

Scottsdale, one of the nation's premier communities, is seeking a Deputy Chief of Police to join the Department's senior executive team. The City is a vibrant full-service community with a population of 220,000 and a workforce of over 2,200. The Police Department has a current budget of \$43.9 million and a staff of 575 (349 sworn and 226 civilian).

The ideal candidate is a decisive, results-oriented leader, experienced in all aspects of professional policing. In addition, candidates should have a proven commitment to community policing, a track record of improving service delivery, and demonstrated ability to build and maintain relationships. A Bachelor's Degree (Master's preferred) and over two years of recent experience at the level of a Police Captain is required. Must obtain and maintain AZ POST certification. Executive level training at the FBI Academy, Senior Management Institute for Police, LEADS, Southern Police Institute, or a similar executive management school is desirable.

Salary range is \$77,896 - \$105,019, a range increase is anticipated in July 2001. The City offers an attractive compensation and benefit package. Submit cover letter with current salary, resume, and three work-related references by Friday, June 29, 2001 to

John Shannon
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SHANNON
ASSOCIATES

The color of profiling:

Study looks at black cops as both victims & users of practice

The color of their uniforms does not immunize black police officers from being subjected to racial profiling, just as the color of their skin does not bar them from practicing it, according to a survey of 158 African American members of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The findings gathered by two associate professors at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee were presented at last year's annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. David E. Barlow and Melissa Hickman Barlow sent surveys to 414 African American officers at the agency, generating a response rate of 38 percent. The respondents were 83.5 percent male and 16.5 percent female. Virtually all were over 25 years old and had been police officers for at least a year.

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said they had been stopped as a result of racial profiling at some point in their lives. Just over half said they had been questioned, and 21 percent said they were issued tickets. During the past five years, 43 percent said they had been stopped and 26 percent questioned.

Respondents said that police will usually "hack off" when they realize they have pulled over a fellow officer. "At that point in the encounter, in nearly every case, the officer making the stop is said to have quickly broken off the temporary detention and rushed away," said the study.

When asked to describe the incident, respondents said that the first words out of officers' mouths were typically: "What are you doing here?" "Is this car stolen?" "Do you work here?" "Do you have a job?" Officers, they said, told them they were speeding, or that they fit the description of a suspect, when they asked why they had been stopped. Another oft-repeated response was "It's my job to ask the questions, not yours," the study noted.

In one case described by a respondent, an officer ran back to his patrol car and drove away when the officer he had stopped asked him for his name and badge number, and to send for his supervisor.

There was no home-field advantage for the black officers, with 43 percent reporting that they had been stopped, questioned, searched, ticketed or arrested somewhere in the state of Wisconsin in the past five years, and 39 percent saying it had happened in either the county or city of Milwaukee. Twenty percent said they had had an experience with racial profiling in another state.

Male African American officers were more likely to be racially profiled than their female counterparts. Seventy-five percent of male officers said they had been subjected to a stop based on bias, as compared to 26 percent of female officers.

Those officers with darker skin tone seemed to have more such experiences, according to the survey. Three-quarters of officers who described themselves as dark-skinned said they had been a victim of racial profiling, compared to 68 percent who said they had light skin.

Ten percent of respondents said they believed racial profiling to be a legitimate tool for law enforcement and said they had used it themselves as sworn Milwaukee officers. Researchers said they were surprised by the answer, given the "widespread condemnation" of the practice of racial profiling by national associations of police executives.



Researchers David E. Barlow (top) and Melissa Hickman Barlow.

Milwaukee seeks answers to sharp drop in tickets

Continued from Page 1

Patrol officers, however, suggest several specific reasons for the decline in ticketing, including the chilling effect that fear of being labeled a racial profiler has had on police.

"If they really wanted to know, they should have come on the street and asked us," an officer told The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "This falloff isn't a coincidence or an accident. I could give you reasons all day, but it boils down to these: a lack of time, a lack of overtime, disgust with City Hall, internal investigations from citizen complaints, more important stuff to do on the job, people behaving themselves a little, and we just don't care sometimes!"

The culture has changed, added one African-American officer. "It used to be if you were speeding and a car stopped you, you sucked it up and took your ticket. Today, everyone wants to accuse you of racial profiling or some other discrimination. No one wants to admit that they might have been wrong. So more people are filing complaints against us. We don't want to be perceived as racial profilers."

Czamek dismissed those contentions, particularly the complaints about restricted overtime. He told LEN: "It may be a contributing factor, since in the past officers right at the end of their shift might issue a citation just to get a little overtime. The chief has discouraged that and said if they do that, then officers coming in on the next shift can continue the paperwork and you don't automatically get overtime. So it may be a contributing factor, but I doubt if it accounts for the entire drop."

One explanation that had been offered and disregarded, he said, was that officers were spending more time responding to calls for service than writing tickets. But calls for service were found to have remained relatively constant in 1999 and 2000. Another possibility was that officers were exercising more discretion and issuing fewer citations.

"Not everyone who is speeding gets a ticket," said Czamek. "We tried to look at the possible alternatives and we

haven't been able to definitively say this is the reason why. The commission has asked the chief why and his explanation was that there are fewer violations."

Police Chief Arthur Jones has posited that the quality-of-life policing strategies he brought to Milwaukee in 1996 have succeeded in the "trickle-up" effect on violent crimes. Fewer tickets are being issued because enforcement of ordinances has prompted better behavior among residents.

"The chief has said that a possible drop in the number of citations is that people are following the ordinances and that quality-of-life enforcement is working," Karen Pride Garvin, the department's public relations manager, told LEN.

Officers were working no less than when the numbers were higher, Jones told The Journal Sentinel. "I believe that the Milwaukee police officers are issuing citations and/or warnings in those cases where they observe ordinance violations," he said.

Jones cited the example of a decline in ticket scalping around the Bradley Center. "I don't think there's a lot of scalping going on right now," he said. "I believe we've had an effect on scalping around the Bradley Center. Obviously the enforcement of the scalping

ordinance has brought attention to the scalping in the area. I'm reasonably sure that because of that there's a reduction or maybe not any scalping going on within 500 feet of the Bradley Center."

But some aldermen are skeptical, particularly about traffic violations. The dramatic decline in speeding tickets during the last three months of 2000, they said, does not jibe with what they have seen themselves on the street.

In a letter to Jones, a copy of which was obtained by LEN, Alderman Michael Murphy wrote that from the numbers in the study, "one may assume that the city experienced either less 'quality of life' violations or a drop in MPD's ability targeting these violations. Data from MPD's Safety Division supports the latter possibility, especially with respect to traffic citations."

Figures supplied by Murphy indicate a 26.6-percent increase in traffic fatalities from 1999 to 2000, and increases in crashes and injuries in each quarter of that year as compared with the previous 12 months. The number of fatalities rose from 30 in 1999 to 38 in 2000, and from October through December of last year, there were 10 fatal accidents as compared with six during the same period in 1999, according to Murphy's statistics.

Playing it safe: Web site drops fugitive list

Morris County, N.J., officials do not see themselves as having bucked a trend by removing a list of "10 Most Wanted" fugitives from a county Web site, but rather as being on the cutting edge of responsibility.

The posting was taken down in March by County Prosecutor John Dangler's office after a woman complained that the fugitive list was one of the hits turned up by a search engine given her boyfriend's name. Although the man's name and photograph had previously been removed, the search engine had apparently retained the outdated information.

"This is a good example of the unintended consequences of putting public records online," Ari Schwartz, a policy analyst for the Center for Democracy & Technology, a Washington, D.C.-based watchdog group, said in an interview with The Newark Star-Ledger. "Anything they put online could be stored forever."

Fearing exposure to civil litigation, Dangler said he had asked for an opinion from the county's lawyer. "We decided to play it safe," he told The Star-Ledger.

But others in law enforcement find cyberspace postings a crime-fighting tool that outweighs any potential for defaming an innocent person.

Unlike Morris County, where the people who make the list are typically those who missed court appearances, the fugitives on the New Jersey State Police site are notoriously wanted criminals. Eight of the 12 Most Wanted are accused of murder, or attempted murder, including Joanne Chesimard, who escaped from prison in 1979 after her conviction for killing a state trooper six years earlier.

"I'm not concerned about any of

them not being guilty," said a spokesman, Sgt. Al Della Fave. "These people are a danger. People need to know." Although the Web list has not helped capture any fugitives in the three years it has been posted, Della Fave nonetheless called the site a "great tool."

The FBI has had more success with its Internet fugitive list. Since 1995, when the bureau's legendary "10 Most Wanted" list went online, it has helped agents capture 10 fugitives, including a bank robber who was recognized by a teenager in Guatemala.

The bureau updates its list as soon as someone is no longer wanted, either removing the name and photograph, or alerting visitors to the latest developments. It is the most popular page on the FBI's site, with about a million hits a month.

What concerned Internet administrators at the Morris County prosecutor's office, however, was their inability to stay current with the information spit out by search engines. Said Detective Paul Sagal, the office could not prevent incidents such as the name of someone who has been exonerated from coming up in a search.

To help prevent this, Sagal adjusted the coding on the Web site to make automated search engines return every 48 hours to see that the site is now different. Search engines, such as the powerful and popular Google, would normally "crawl" the Web and index information about once a month.

"I think we're on the forefront of being responsible," Sagal told The Star-Ledger.

Bulk copies of LEN are available — contact the Circulation Department for details.

Good News!

Looking to enter or advance in the security profession?

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The certificate is awarded by the college's Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration upon completion of a total of 15 credit hours. Choose from the required courses Introduction to Security (may be waived based on life experience) and Law for Security Personnel, plus any three of the following: The Investigative Function; Security of Computers and their Data; Methods of Security; Security Management; Emergency Planning, or Seminar in Security Problems. Courses are available on a dual-track day and evening basis.

Qualified applicants are now being accepted! No entrance exams are required, however, applicants must present a high school or equivalency diploma proving graduation as well as transcripts from all colleges previously attended.

For more information, contact Professor Robert Hair, Coordinator, (212) 237-8380. For an application, contact Peggy Roth at the college Admissions Office, (212) 237-2867 or 237-8833, e-mail, admiss@jjay.cuny.edu, or write to: Admissions Office, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY, 445 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Pilant:

A close-range look at nonlethal munitions

By Lois Pilant

In a confrontation late last November, a patrol officer with the Los Angeles Police Department shot a woman with a beanbag round. The officer fired three shots, missing once, hitting the woman in the shoulder, and finally, hitting her in the eye. Headlines the following day screamed, "Police Clash May Cost Woman An Eye." A subsequent letter to the editor likened Los Angeles to a banana republic and asked, "Where do they get their training? The School of the Americas?"

But the problem may not have been with the officer's marksmanship or training. A study published in early April by Pennsylvania State University and its Institute for Emerging Defense Technologies found that less-than-lethal, also known as nonlethal munitions are often unreliable and inaccurate even at close range. (Rather than confuse the reader with various definitions of "nonlethal" vs. "less-than-lethal," the word "nonlethal" is used in all instances.)

The study is the first ever to test nonlethal munitions under field-like conditions. The goal, according to its authors, was to provide law enforcement with objective information about the actual performance and effectiveness of these projectiles.

"All we've ever had to go on was the manufacturer's data sheet. There hasn't been any scientific data or testing information to prove what they claim," said Capt. Mike

(Lois Pilant is a freelance writer with expertise in police equipment and technology. She is the author of the widely read and respected "Spotlight On..." columns published in the IACP's Police Chief magazine from 1992 to 2000, and is a contributing editor and writer for U.S. Department of Justice publications, as well as other law enforcement and corrections publications.)

Grossman, head of the Emergency Operations Bureau for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and one of the study's authors. "For example, they say being hit by a beanbag round is equivalent to being hit by a baseball thrown by a major league pitcher. But nobody has ever proven that."

While the study, titled "Attribute-Based Evaluation," does not recommend any particular type of munition, it does objectively and realistically detail the performance of each one. The results were surprising, and not all of them good. The most damning: 30 percent of the rounds fired could not reliably hit a man-sized target at 21 feet.

In the lab

To be considered for the test, each type of munition had to meet four criteria: It had to be capable of being launched; it had to be effective beyond the muzzle (also known as an extended-range munition); it had to be designed as a nonlethal munition, and it had to rely on impact for its effectiveness. Manufacturers donated all of the munitions, with the understanding that 10 of each type would be fired. The objective, said Capt. Sid Heal, who heads the LASD's Special Enforcement Bureau and is also one of the study's authors, was not to pit the munitions against one another, but to measure their effectiveness under realistic conditions.

To replicate field conditions, Grossman, Heal and John Kenny, Ph.D., a researcher at Penn State's Applied Research Lab, decided to fire from 21 feet, since that is generally considered to be the distance which an adversary, armed with an edged-weapon or club, can close before an officer can respond defensively. A second range of 75 feet was chosen in response to two factors: First, an LASD test that had young, healthy, male cadets hurling baseballs, water bottles, bricks and rocks to find



the maximum range a person could throw an object large enough to cause serious injury.

"We took 100 cadets from our academy and told them they could do anything they wanted — run at it, kick it, whatever — to get their projectile downrange," said Heal, who conducted the test. "What we found was that less than 3 percent could throw an object weighing 1.2 pounds hard enough to hurt you any farther than 180 feet. That's not even a cross-section of the population. It's the worst-case scenario because we used 100 of the biggest, baddest guys we could find."

The second factor in determining the 75-foot range came from a nationwide study conducted by a member of the San Diego Police Department, which showed that officers in the field typically fire nonlethal munitions from about 75 feet.

Marksman from the LASD's Special Enforcement Bureau fired the nonlethal projectiles during the test, with each officer using the launcher specified by the manufacturer and firing in the manner required for the munition. A ballistic pendulum and high-speed camera shooting 3,000 frames per second measured the impact of each projectile. Because there are no hench rests in the field, they were not used in the study. Testing took place over two days at Scientific Applications Research Association's (SARA) Laboratory in Huntington Beach, California.

Attributes Measured

"This report is a first step but it doesn't answer all the questions," said Kenny. "It doesn't tell law enforcement what to do or what to buy. It gives them enough information that they can take the data and manipulate it to arrive at their own conclusions." Attributes such as method of engagement, cartridge size, material, weight and launcher required were noted for the report (see sidebar). The more important data, however, were the measurements of accuracy and impact.

Accuracy: In ballistics, accuracy is typically thought of as the bullet, the weapon, or the shooter's ability to hit the mark, i.e., that point-of-aim and point-of-impact are one and the same. Nonlethals have never even approached such a degree of accuracy. Instead, accuracy is generally defined as a percentile score of the likelihood the shooter will hit a man-sized target at a given range. Where the projectile hits is not a defining consideration, since any hit meets the standard.

To realistically test accuracy, the ABE study measured the amount of dispersion of five rounds fired at 21 and 75 feet each. The smaller the amount of dispersion, the higher the probability that the officer will hit the point-of-aim and not a vulnerable area of the body. A 6-inch hullseye paper target was centered on the

impact plate and used for point-of-aim, with accuracy then determined by measuring the smallest circle that

enclosed all five shots.

The study reports accuracy by launcher type, configuration (physical makeup and shape of the projectile), and projectile material. One result, for example, was that rubber projectiles, depending on their configuration, spanned the dispersion range, while those using lead were accurate regardless of configuration or launcher type. Another result was that of the 37 types of munitions fired from 75 feet, 17 had an accuracy dispersion of 18 inches or less; 11 had a dispersion of 18 to 36 inches; and nine could not reliably hit the impact plate at all.

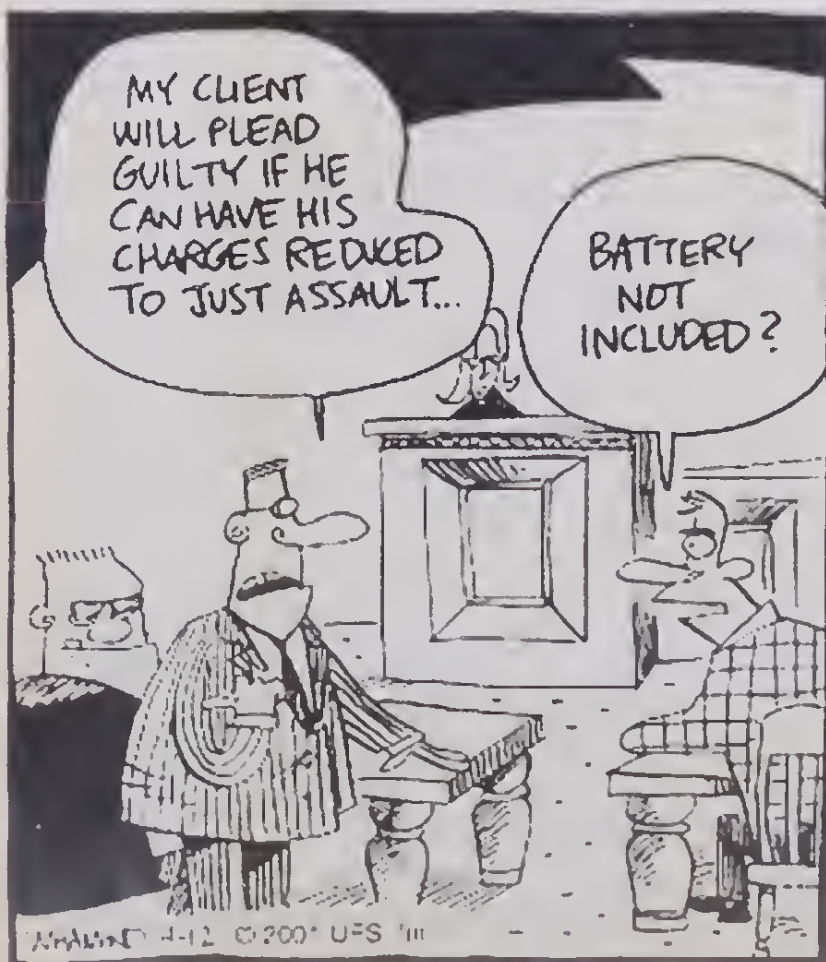
"We were struck by the general inaccuracy of these munitions," the authors write. "As can be seen from the data, some configurations were more accurate than others. However, there were very few direct-fire munitions that could be used accurately at a range of 75 feet."

Imparted momentum: Imparted momentum simply describes how hard the thing hits. This attribute measured the veracity of the baseball theory, which turned out to be accurate after all. What was not true, however, was that nonlethals would knock a person to the ground.

As with accuracy, results are listed by launcher type, configuration, and projectile material. For example, small pellet projectiles shot from at 21 feet had a wide range of impact (measured in Newton-seconds, or Ns), measuring from a low of .406 Ns to a high of 8.81 Ns. When comparing rubber vs. lead projectiles, rubber ranged from .406 Ns to 11.09 Ns, while lead ranged from 2.0 Ns to 11.05 Ns.

According to the study, "We observed large variations in imparted momentum for a single type of munition. For example, within the five rounds fired of a single type of munition, the highest imparted momentum could be almost three times that of the lowest imparted momentum. The human effect of this type of variation could range from ineffective to tragic."

Continued on Page 11



Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Election of chiefs is a bone of contention

Continued from Page 1

in the two years," said Stamford Police Chief Glenn Smith, whose is seeking reelection this year. "But I still like it. If people aren't happy with you, they can just vote you out," he told The AP.

In Louisiana, New Iberia voters were given a second chance to decide whether they wanted to change their city charter so that chiefs could be

elected. While the measure passed the first time in October by an 85-vote margin, residents collected 2,000 signatures on a petition claiming that the wording on the ballot was confusing. People did not know what voting "yes," or "no," actually meant, according to The (Baton Rouge) Advocate.

City officials who want to keep the charter as it is say officers run the risk

of losing civil service seniority if they quit their jobs to run for chief and lose. And if the chief's position remains an appointed post, candidates must meet standardized qualifications which those running for election do not, such as test scores, experience and education.

During Election Day last fall, said Ruth Fontenot, she was driving to the polls when she noticed a police officer handing someone a ticket. If a chief was up for reelection, she said, officers might be directed to lay off ticket writing before the election.

"You have to be popular to be elected, that's really what it boils down to," Fontenot told The Advocate.

But to Fields, popular sovereignty does not seem like such a bad idea. There is nothing wrong with a police chief being concerned about being re-elected, he said. In Fields's view, a chief who is concerned about voter opinions will not countenance brutality or misconduct. "He's not going to allow officers to go out there and use their badge and gun to take advantage of innocent citizens because they can," he told LEN.

An elected police chief will be more responsive to citizens than one who is appointed, said Fields. Under civil ser-

vice, chiefs are appointed until they retire or are terminated for cause, a situation which, he said, leads to there being little oversight.

According to The Advocate, Fields's push to let Baton Rouge voters elect their own chief dates back to a 1993 lawsuit in which nine black residents sued over the consolidation of the parish and city governments on the grounds that it dilutes the political voice of African Americans. While whites still outnumber blacks parishwide, blacks make up the majority of city residents, according to census data.

"Most of the police chiefs we have in the state of Louisiana are political because we have 360 municipalities in this state and of those, 289 of those police chiefs are elected to office," said Fields. "It would be no more or less political here in Baton Rouge than anywhere else."

Fields's proposal is one of two concerning police that he has made in the months following the death in February of a mentally ill man. On Feb. 28, two Baton Rouge officers fatally shot George Patrick James, 54, after James allegedly threatened them with a knife. Fields, a lawyer, is representing the victim's family in a possible civil law-

suit stemming from the death.

He filed a bill for debate in March that would require State Police to handle shooting probes whenever deadly force is used by local officers. Under the proposal, State Police would be empowered to subpoena witnesses and would submit a written report with recommendations for action to the department, district attorney and state lawmakers.

On April 10, the Senate Judiciary Committee narrowly defeated the bill, which the state sheriffs' association had blasted as a "slap in the face of law enforcement."

Baton Rouge officials contend that Fields's efforts to change the city's home-rule charter calling for police chiefs to be appointed will run into heavy resistance when it goes before the full Senate. The bill, said Mayor Bobby Simpson, runs counter to the state's constitutional ban on state laws that modify the basic structure of a local government.

"We've been blessed with excellent chiefs of police in Baton Rouge throughout my adult life, and I see no reason to alter what we've done in the past," said Senator Jay Dardenne, a Republican from Baton Rouge.



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Law Enforcement News

(43001)

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

Fit for duty? Mass. will soon find out

Continued from Page 1

necessary to pursue and take down a suspect. Within 130.4 seconds, officers will be asked to climb under an obstacle, go up and down stairs, climb through a window, over a wall and negotiate a series of cones in a zigzag pattern. At the end of the course, candidates will grab hold of a weighted bag attached to a pulley and touch it to the ground. Then they will be required to simulate handcuffing by pulling on two hand levers until the cable hits the stop.

In the trigger pull event, they will simulate firing a weapon, raising a handgun and squeezing the trigger six times with each hand within 7.1 seconds. During the dummy-drag test, candidates must drag a dummy over a straight course within 11 seconds.

The separation event consists of pulling a hanging bag backward, touching it to the ground across a marked line. The officers will perform two pulls, simulating the action of pulling two individuals apart and controlling them. The task must be performed in 14.2 seconds.

Nee said the union is in negotiation with the Boston Police Department's management about setting up a fitness regimen, such as the one State Police have in their contract. Troopers are allowed 45 minutes of exercise time on each shift.

"At a lot of stations now, officers have pooled their money, bought their own equipment, but they're not getting any instruction," he told LEN. "They're not understanding what changes in your body. The federal government does it, the state does it and they all have standards. If you can't get it done in your work day because some work responsibility doesn't allow for it, then they give you an hour, they allow you five hours a week to work out."

While State Police are not subject

to the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, the agency is also preparing to test the fitness of its troopers. Implementation has been slowed, however, by disagreements over how many troopers would need to undergo testing before a

The troopers' union says fitness standards should reflect the wide age range of the State Police, which has members in their 60's.

fitness standard could be established.

The State Police Association of Massachusetts successfully argued that all 2,300 troopers would have to be tested since such a wide age range exists. With no mandatory retirement age, the State Police has members in their 60's.

"When I set this program up, I tried to make it user-friendly and the union accepted it," said Sgt. Rick Brown, SPAM's vice president. "I am doing this to try and be fair to everyone. I think it's the fairest way," he told The Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

As matters now stand, the State Police must test all 2,300 sworn members before the data can be analyzed and a fitness standard developed. Then, all troopers will be tested again to see if they can pass the resultant test. So far, the State Police has given fitness exams to 700 members since 1999.

The exam that will eventually be given to all troopers will be task-related, including simulations of rescues and chases.

A close-range look at nonlethal munitions

Continued from Page 9

Cost: The study compares per-unit cost of each type of munition. The primary finding was that prices vary considerably, from \$1.60 to \$25 per unit. Price is an important consideration, Heal said, because every round fired on the street constitutes at least four to five rounds fired in training.

Panic vs. Empowerment

"We've been asked by our own department which round is better. Our answer is that each one has a specific purpose and is appropriate for a specific range," Grossman said. "This report offers law enforcement an unbiased source to compare the needs of their department with what a round will do. Our goal is to educate law enforcement so they can buy the right thing."

Grossman said he hopes the study will provide a realistic view of nonlethals' effectiveness, and put an end to what he calls "panic vs. empowerment."

"We are conditioned by our training to believe that a 12-gauge shotgun is the most powerful weapon we have available and that when we fire it, we will get a definite result," said Grossman. "When the beanbag round first came out, the manufacturer's information led us to believe that if we fired it out of a 12-gauge shotgun, it would knock the person down. But that doesn't always happen. You fire this thing and it bounces it off some guy, and he looks at you like, 'Why'd you do that?' You fire three more rounds, he doesn't stop what he's doing, and you're now in a state of panic. The maximum weapon you have didn't work, and you've now empowered this person because he thinks he's survived four shotgun blasts, which means the situation may have escalated to the level of deadly force."

The alternative is to know exactly what each type of munition will do. If the officer knows it will not knock the subject down, that it will only distract,

then the answer may be to go from blunt trauma to a chemical, like OC, for compliance. "What's important," Grossman said, "is to know the effectiveness of the tool you're going to use."

Unsung Heroes

The ABE study is not always flattering to the manufacturers of nonlethals. Many of their products were found to be inaccurate, unreliable and expensive. Yet Heal, Grossman and Kenny called those who participated the unsung heroes, who donated more than \$20,000 in munitions and, in some cases, spent long hours at the test site watching as each round was fired. Without donations of ammunition, Heal said, "we never would have been able to do

tion in accuracy. I would think developers would want to address that. Also, I think the price of these things is high. I can go to Wal-Mart and buy a box of 12-gauge shells for \$4.50. The least expensive, nonlethal with the same primer, the same powder, but with PVC balls inside is \$1.60 for one round. When something is that expensive, it's a barrier to its use. No law enforcement agency is rich. They want a round they can afford to use and that is affordable for training. Developers may want to look at that as well."

Kenny added that reliability was also a concern. The study notes several misfires, including incidents in which the projectile remained lodged in the barrel after firing, and one case where

A study puts manufacturers in an unflattering light for their "inaccurate, unreliable and expensive" munitions.

this study. We simply didn't have the money to buy these things off the shelf."

Not do Heal or Grossman find the negative performance of some of the munitions alarming. Said Heal: "The standard here is not perfection, but the alternative, which is deadly force. What you have to remember is that almost everything on the market today is less than six years old. There are some exceptions, but almost all of the fin-stabilized and drag-stabilized rounds are new. We're dealing with the cutting edge, and it is immature and primitive, but still preferable to the alternative. They may not be perfect but they've saved thousands of officers' lives and those of the public."

The study's authors said they are well pleased with their work, and hope it will result in more knowledgeable consumers while providing realistic guidelines for nonlethal developers. "Why are they inaccurate?" asked Kenny. "You're firing at a much lower velocity than if you're firing a lethal weapon. Lower velocity means a reduc-

an integral part of a specialized launcher fell off. "Quality control seems to be a bit of a problem," Kenny said. The authors caution that the study is only a snapshot of what was available at the time. In the months since testing was completed and the study published, new products have hit the market.

Kenny, the scientist of the trio, stands behind the study yet acknowledged its limitations: Funding was restricted to \$15,000, with \$10,000 going toward rental of the ballistic pendulum. Also, the sample size was small — only five rounds were fired at each distance. And while the amount of momentum transferred to the impact plate was definitively measured, "we cannot tell you how that impact relates to the human body."

Given more time, more money and more munitions, Kenny would like to see additional testing. "This is a first step. We need to look harder at the munitions. Some are obviously better than others. We did a rough cut, but we need to stop looking at those that don't

make the cut

and concentrate on the ones that do. From there I'd like to see us fire 100 rounds under a variety of conditions. That would give us a better statistical base," he said.

Kenny said he also would like to see an in-depth analysis of how different projectiles impact the human body, and in the study's next incarnation, more skip-firing.

The ABE already has generated international interest, with requests for copies coming from Scotland, Australia, Canada, Ireland, England, Belgium, Thailand, Japan and Israel. "It was not written by science or academia," said Heal. "It was written by policemen for policemen. It is also a great combination of law enforcement, manufacturers, science and academia."

(The study is available free at www.ari.psu.edu/arsenal/defensetech/defensetech.html. For more information, contact John Kenny, Ph.D., at Pennsylvania State University's Applied Research Laboratory, 814-863-9401, jak14@psu.edu; Capt. Mike Grossman, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Bureau, 323-980-2201, mkgrossa@lafd.org; Capt. Sid Heal, LASD Special Enforcement Bureau, 323-264-7084, sheal@lafd.org

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Attributes identified & measured

Manufacturer — All available contact information so the user can get more data on a specific munition.

Model — Each model name and number is provided to precisely identify each specific munition.

Availability — This distinguishes munitions currently available and those in development. Munitions that were not expected to be commercially available within two years were not tested.

Configuration — The physical makeup and shape of the projectile. This information can be used to determine the suitability of a particular munition for a specific purpose. For example, one designed to strike a single individual at a given range versus one designed to strike more than one person in proximity to a given range.

Cartridge size — Length of the cartridge. This is important because munitions come in different lengths, and launchers come in a variety of sizes, shapes, configurations and calibers. Because the launcher can be the most expensive component of a nonlethal system, buying munitions that can be launched from devices the department already owns may be an important consideration.

Material — Describes the primary material used to construct the projectile, such as rubber, lead, steel, silica, plastic. Some munitions are a composite, thus only the predominant material was noted.

Launcher — The launcher required for each munition. Again, using a munition designed for a launcher the

department already owns may be an important purchasing consideration.

Method of engagement — As recommended by the manufacturer. Some projectiles should be skip-fired and some should be fired directly at the target, while others can be fired either way. How a munition will be used can be a key selection factor. It should be noted that most of the test data came from direct-fired projectiles since test conditions were not suitable for skip-firing.

Field identification — How the projectile is distinguished from other munitions, both lethal and nonlethal. Unlike military munitions, which have a standard color-coding, nonlethals can look identical to their lethal counterpart. This can be dangerous in low-light situations where labels are obscured or obliterated by handling. Some manufacturers have tried to alleviate identification problems by using color, shape, and tactile identification, such as raised bumps or letters.

Number of projectiles — The number of projectiles contained in each round. This often determines whether a munition is intended for use against a single target or as an area munition. This also helps to determine how it should be used, and the likelihood of collateral damage.

Special features — As nonlethals continue to improve, manufacturers have added special enhancements, like dye markers and color dust for tagging a subject, or pockets for chemical agents.

Law Enforcement News

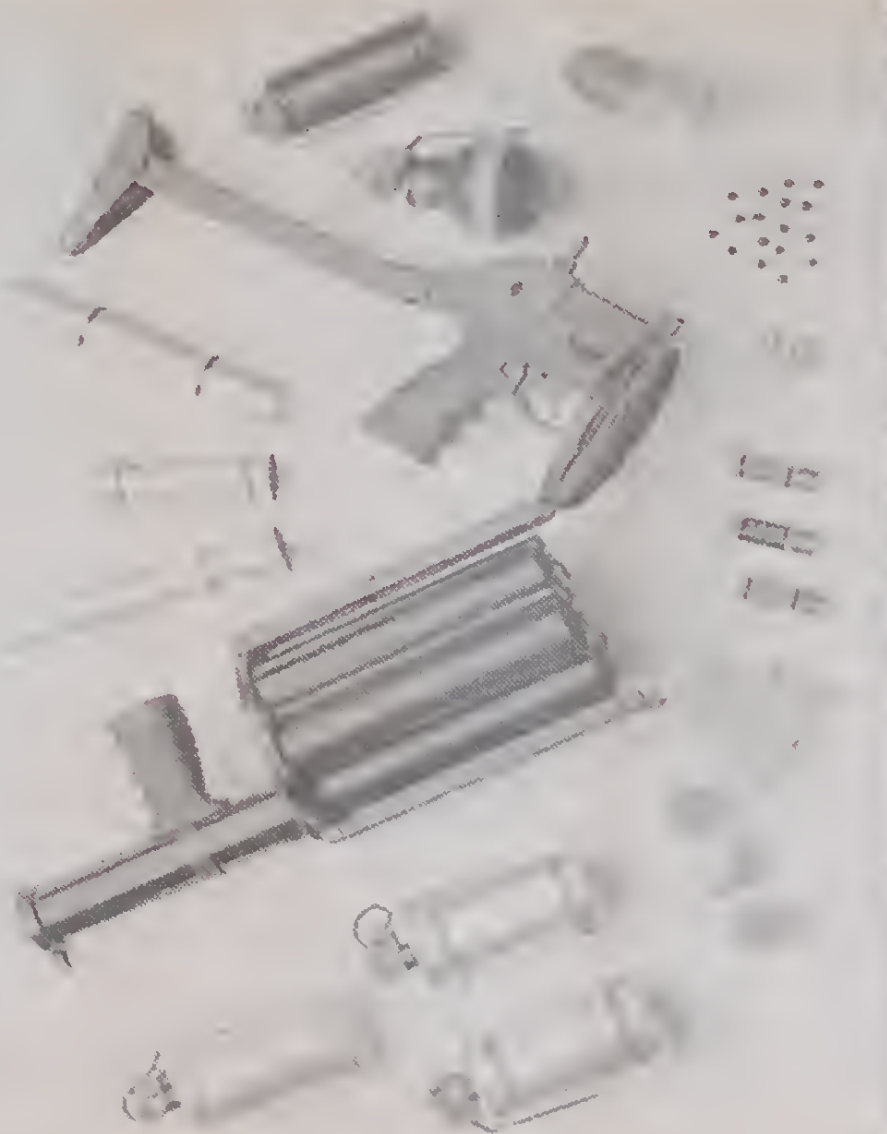
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April 30, 2001

Up close & unflattering

A realistic look at nonlethal munitions. Forum, Page 9.



Support your local police chief:

At the polls, that is. Popular election of chiefs is up for a vote in Louisiana. Page 1.

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What They Are Saying:

“How can he enforce laws upon me as a citizen of Baton Rouge, and protect me. . .and serve me as a citizen of Baton Rouge if he himself is not a citizen of Baton Rouge?”

— Louisiana state Senator Cleo Fields, on his proposal to make the police chief's job in Baton Rouge an elected rather than appointed position. (Story, Page 1.)